

# PEOPLE and THINGS: By ATTICUS

THROUGHOUT much of last week's Suez debate there was a strong undercurrent of excitement generated by Sir Winston Churchill's presence and the belief that he would intervene. Visitors lingered in the public galleries for hours hoping that they would hear the great voice once more.

From the first, Sir Winston Churchill has been kept minutely informed of every move in the Suez crisis, and our Allies are told of his unequivocal support of the Prime Minister's actions.

He came to Wednesday's debate prepared to speak on behalf of the Government, but I understand he felt that Sir Anthony Eden's fine exposition required no postscript from him.

On Thursday he confined himself to a deep bow of assent when the Prime Minister referred to Sir Winston's full support of the Government's policy.

Many regret that Sir Winston has not publicly stated his views on the crisis, but no doubt this mighty voice is being kept in reserve for the hour when the sounding of the tocsin has become inevitable.

## Treasury Bench

It has been suggested that, if Sir Winston had decided to intervene, he would have been invited to speak from the Government front bench where he could have arranged his notes on the despatch box.

Although the Prime Minister would have been delighted to co-operate in such an arrangement, there is no precedent for a Member, who does not hold office, speaking from the box. The reason, I am told, is that it is officially the Treasury Bench, which is not exactly the same thing as the Government supporters' front bench.

There would, however, have

been nothing to prevent Sir Winston crossing the floor and speaking from the front Opposition bench and using the despatch box there. As a Privy Councillor he would have been perfectly entitled to do so, but in the embittered temper of the debate his appearance beside the Opposition leaders might have been misinterpreted abroad.

## Durham Choice

IT was on the Prime Minister's personal recommendation that the rule requiring Lord-Lieutenant to retire at seventy-five has been ignored—for the first time since the age limit was introduced—in the case of Lord Lawson, who has now been re-appointed as the Queen's representative in Durham for another two years.

This is a tribute not only to the character of an old political foe—as Mr. Jack Lawson he sat in the Commons for thirty years as Labour M.P. for Chester-le-Street—but also to his remarkable vitality.

He is one of the youngest seventy-five-year-olds I know; and his stocky physique is toughened by hill climbing and day-long hikes over the State parks, in which he feels a proprietorial interest as a member of the National Parks Commission.

## New Führer?

WHEN Grand Admiral Doenitz is released from Spandau on October 1, he may become the most dangerous political figure in Germany.

The neo-Nazi parties, with their hard core of former U-boat and other naval crews, believe that, since Hitler appointed Doenitz as his successor

before he committed suicide, Doenitz is still titular head of the Reich.

Next year, West Germany will be holding her most critical elections since 1933, and in a probably close finish between Dr. Adenauer and the Socialists, the Nazis may hold the balance—particularly if led by Doenitz.

Rear-Admiral Höye, who commanded the frogmen and naval saboteurs at the end of the war and is now Presi-

dent of the Navy League, has appealed to the German Navy to refrain from turning Doenitz's release into a political jamboree.

It will be less easy to keep Doenitz quiet. He holds precisely the same political beliefs as he did when he was Hitler's most pro-Nazi C-in-C.

## The Undefeated

AIR-MARSHAL "BILLY" BISHOP, V.C., D.S.O., and bar, M.C., D.F.C., shot down

seventy-two enemy aircraft in the first world war and was Canada's greatest war hero.

A couple of weeks ago a friend of mine met him at Palm Beach and found him in high spirits. His doctors had attached to him three nurses and insisted on a strict regime, including a long walk every day.

He obstinately refused to be ill, and his life became a running battle with the unfortunate nurses. He would meekly

leave the hotel for his constitutional, proceed round the corner and take a taxi to the golf club, where he played roisterous backgammon for high stakes until it seemed judicious to return to the sick-room.

Billy Bishop was the greatest fighter pilot of the Kaiser's war. He died, an undefeated man, last Tuesday.

## The Olympic Spirit

EAST and West Germany are sending a combined team to the Olympic Games. After months of wrangling it has been decided that the athletes, wearing East German uniforms, will march into the Melbourne stadium behind the West German flag.

Now the Chinese Communists are also making an even bigger bid for "unity." Jung Kuo Tang, chairman of the Chinese Olympic Commission, has appealed to athletes from Hongkong, Macao, and Formosa—territories claimed by the Peking Government—to compete for places in the Chinese Olympic squad.

When I consulted Mr. Harold Abrahams about this gambit he was indignant. "They simply can't do that," he said. "Hongkong is affiliated to the International Olympic Committee. You can't go around poaching other countries' athletes."

Maybe they can't, but that doesn't say they won't.

## Price of Fame

WINSTON, the police horse ridden by the Queen at Trooping the Colour, is suffering from a diminished tail. A hair from Winston's tail is a prized souvenir among Pony Club members and too many of the dear little visitors to the Metropolitan Police stables at Imber Court have black theft in their tiny hearts.

Winston's tail was heavily raided during his appearance at the Royal and Great Yorkshire Shows. At Harrogate, Winston's rider spied one youth sliding away with a clump of horsehair clutched in his hand.

"Where did you get that?" shouted the policeman.

"Out of your horse," piped the boy, darting into the crowd.

## Space Passport

WHO owns outer space? No one has decided but the top-ranking expert on this somewhat esoteric subject is Professor John Cooper, the

legal adviser of the International Air Transport Association, which has just been meeting at Edinburgh.

For the past twenty-five years Professor Cooper, a short, precise American, has been flying around the world, at ever increasing speeds, to aeronautical conferences. Now he is leading his colleagues outside the stratosphere, and he suggests extending the sovereignty of "subadjacent states" (i.e., countries) to a point 300 miles above the earth's surface with agreed rights of transit for all "non-military devices" when going up or coming down.

As Professor Cooper sees it, the problem is urgent. The first earth satellite may be launched next July in the United States as part of the geophysical year activities, and the Russians claim that they are equally far advanced. Even now "there are an awful lot of rockets shooting about"—a problem that is causing the airline companies increasing alarm.

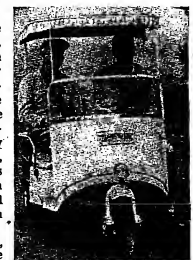
## Summit Golf

PRESIDENT EISENHOWER played his first round of golf for three months at Cyprus Point in California.

Using Spalding Irons, Bobby Jones woods and Ben Hogan balls, he completed the par seventy-two course in ninety-one—a very respectable score for anyone, and remarkable for a sixty-five-year-old man who

had never seen the course before.

It will surprise many elderly golfers to learn that the President hit fifty practice drives before he started. But he then saved his strength by travelling



IKE'S WAGON

in an electric caddy-car driven by a Secret Service agent.

Six other secret agents accompanied the round, their powers of detection proving invaluable in the tracing of lost balls.

## A Likely Tale!

A MAN leading a monkey on a chain walked into the circus manager's office.

"This monkey can do everything—smoke, drink tea, ride a bicycle—everything. He's absolutely human."

"Why do you keep him on a chain then?"

"He won't pay his bridge debts."